GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1076
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
CELLULAR TELEPHONE
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the duration of licence period given to cellular telephone operators in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) the date on which the licence becomes operational and the contract comes for renewal for the cellular telephone companies in both the cities;

(c) whether any irrevocable clause in the respective contracts has been signed by these companies with the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the public has been commercially exploited by the cellular companies engaged in the country; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to review agreements in public interests?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): The period of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Licence is 20 years from the effective date of licence unless revoked earlier for any reasons. The effective dates of Delhi and Mumbai CMTS Licences are given in the Annexure. The Licensor may extend the period of licence, if requested during 19th year from the effective date for a period 10 years at a time on mutually agreed terms and conditions. These Licences shall be due for renewal before expiry of 20 years period from the effective dates unless otherwise revoked earlier.

(c) & (d): The Licence Agreement signed between Licensee and Licensor stipulates detailed terms and condition which are mutually agreed. The Licensor reserves the right to modify at any time the terms and conditions of the licence if in the opinion of the licensor it is necessary or expedient to do so in the interest of general public or for the proper conduct of telegraphs or on security consideration.

(e) The Cellular Operators are bound to provide the service within the ceiling tariff as prescribed by telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time. Alternate tariff plans should also meet reporting requirement to TRAI as prescribed in Telecommunication Tariff Order-1999.

(f) The Licence Agreement for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service provides the right to the Government as to modify the terms and conditions of the licence in public interest.

ANNEXURE

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LICENSES

S. No. SERVICE AREA NAME OF SERVICE PROVIDER EFFECTIVE DATE OF LICENCE

1. Delhi Metro City Bharti Cellular Ltd. 29.11.1994

2. Delhi Metro City Sterling Cellular Ltd. 30.11.1994

3. Delhi Metro City Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited 15.9.1999

4. Mumbai Metro City BPL Communication Limited 30.11.1994

5. Mumbai Metro City Hutchison Max Telecom Limited 29.11.1994

6. Mumbai Metro City Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited 15.9.1999